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SB 763
166N3

Pest Alert

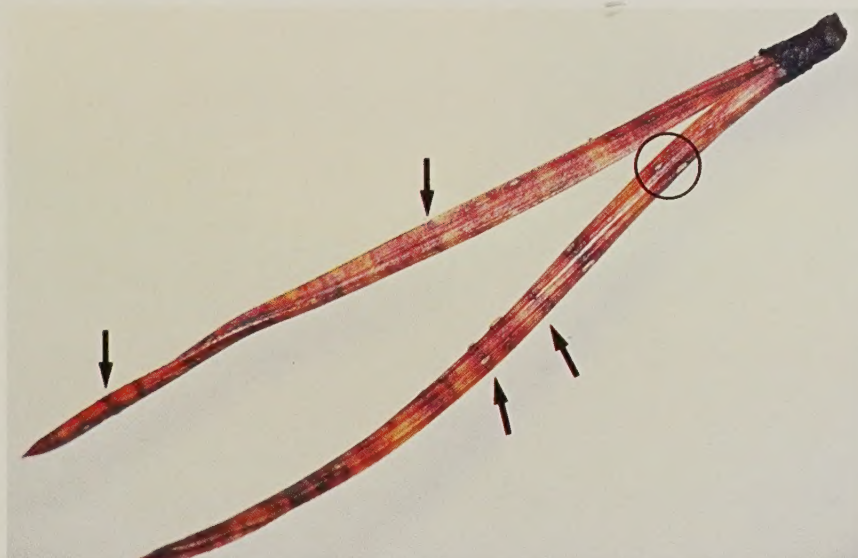
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area

NA-FB/P-15

214 NAEMACYCLUS NEEDLECAST [Pinus sp.]



Transverse brown bands (see arrows); off-white waxy fruiting bodies (see circle).

Naemacyclus needlecast, caused by *Naemacyclus minor*, has severely damaged Scots pine Christmas Tree plantations in Pennsylvania. This disease has been found also in Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Symptoms of Naemacyclus needlecast begin to develop in September on 2- and 3-year-old needles. Needles turn yellow and show prominent transverse brown bands. Small, off-white, waxy, fruiting bodies form on affected needles from late October through December, with needle-casting from late October through the following spring. Fruiting bodies are seen best when needles are wet. Symptoms progress from the inner branches outward; i.e. the older needles are cast first. Symptoms are vertically uniform throughout the tree. This characteristic helps distinguish Naemacyclus needlecast from other needlecasts, where disease severity usually decreases from lower branches to upper crown. Short-distance spread is by wind disseminated spores, while long-distance spread usually involves transport of infected nursery stock.

Your assistance is requested in reporting this disease.



Naemacyclus infected tree.



Send reports of damage to:

Catherine F. Croghan
Thomas Nicholls

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St. Paul, MN 55108

